

# Other Useful Statistics on Sexual Violence

## Trafficking statistics:

- Due to the clandestine nature of human trafficking, estimates of how many people are trafficked into the United States varies widely. According to the U.S. Department of State, approximately 18,000-20,000 people are annually trafficked into the United States<sup>8</sup>. However, a report put out by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and State places the estimate of people who are annually trafficked into the United States at **50,000**<sup>9</sup>.
- While human trafficking is tied with arms dealing as the second largest global criminal industry<sup>10</sup>, it is estimated to be the most profitable and generates approximately \$9 billion a year in profits<sup>11</sup>.
- Sex trafficking is a serious and growing problem in the United States, as international sex trafficking has been documented in at least 21 states: "Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas<sup>12</sup>, and North Carolina.

## Disability statistics:

- At least 76% of adults with cognitive disabilities have been sexually assaulted<sup>13</sup>.
- 95% of violent episodes against people with disabilities involve sexual violence<sup>14</sup>.
- Persons with disabilities in North Carolina experience sexual assault at a rate 5 times higher than persons without disabilities<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2006). *About human trafficking: Overview of human trafficking issue*. Retrieved from the web October 26, 2006, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/index.html>.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Departments of Labor, Justice, Health and Human Services, and State. (2002). *Trafficking in person: A guide for non-governmental organizations*. Washington, D.C.: Author.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2006). *About human trafficking: Overview of human trafficking issue*. Retrieved from the web October 26, 2006, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/index.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006). *Human trafficking: An intelligence report*. Retrieved from the web October 27, 2006, from [http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/human\\_trafficking061206.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/human_trafficking061206.htm).

<sup>12</sup> Raymond, J. G. & Hughes, D.M. (2001). *Sex trafficking in the United States: International and domestic trends*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice.

<sup>13</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 1996

<sup>14</sup> Beail & Warden, 1995

## Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer

- Members of the lesbian, gay, bi, and transsexual and transgender communities often have sexual violence committed against them simply because of their sexual identity, gender identity, and/or gender expression:
  - Delicious, an African American transgender woman, was brutally beaten, raped, and strangled on August 13, 2004. Currently the murder is under investigation and sexuality and anti-transgender violence have been looked into as a motive.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Sexual violence is commonly used by perpetrators as a way to punish and humiliate someone for being LGBTQ. Sexual assault is often one of the forms of violence that occur during an anti-LGBTQ battering.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - A transgender woman reported that two male police officers followed her into the ladies room and harassed her because of her gender identity.<sup>[3]</sup>
- People who are transsexual or transgender also regularly find that, after they have been raped or sexually assaulted, traditional helping agencies are many times unresponsive:
  - A Latina transgender woman was sexually assaulted and robbed during 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend by a group of young men in her neighborhood. When the police arrived, they denied her treatment for the physical and sexual violence and used inappropriate pronouns and other transphobic language.<sup>[4]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2005). *Anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender violence in 2004: A report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York: Author.

<sup>[2]</sup> Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center, San Luis Obispo County. (2006). Retrieved from the web November 1, 2006, at <http://www.sarpcenter.org/support/transgender.htm>.

<sup>[3]</sup> National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2005). *Anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender violence in 2004: A report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York: Author..

<sup>[4]</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>[5]</sup> Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001